

モノクロームファクター

Monochrome Factor



IV

空廻カイリ

Monochrome Factor

Kengo Asamura



1 01010101010

C CONTENTS

#014: Spring Snow 3

#015: Hiryu 31

#016: A Helper.? 61

#017: Rei 89

#018: Koh 117

#019: Holes 145

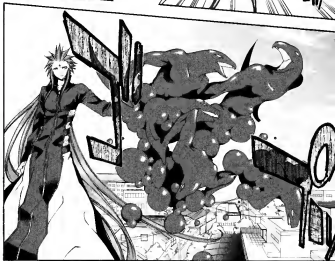


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THEY SOUND REALLY PRETENTIOUS, LIKE THEY'RE SAYING STUFF THAT MAKES NO SENSE.

YOU THINK IT'S THE DRAMA CLUB?



WELL, SURE, MAYBE...

HMM?



HEY!

THERE'S NOBODY HERE.

AND THE SKY'S BACK TO NORMAL. WHAT'S GOING ON?

YOU'RE RIGHT. I WAS SURE I HEARD IT, TOO.



THE MUSOU GIKAI!





IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME.

YOU CALL YOURSELF SHUICHI WAGATSUMA NOW?

Hee hee

NO NO, DON'T WORRY.



BUT MASTER... THAT SPELL!

I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE IMPRESSED.



THAT YOU CAN CAST A SPELL OF THAT MAGNITUDE IN SUCH A STATE...



BUT WITH THE STRESS IT PUTS ON YOUR BODY, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT.





SO
THAT'S
IT.

A
SHIN.

I
SEE...



EVEN IF
THEY'RE
NOT
HUMAN!

AYA
?!

I
WON'T LET
ANYBODY
DISRUPT
SCHOOL
DISCIPLINE--





BUT I
LIKE IT!



WHAT
DID
YOU
SAY
?!

Oh!

THE
DEMON
OF THE
DISO-
PUNARY
COMMIT-
TEE IS
NOW A
DEMON
WARRIOR.



AKIRA!



SO IT
ACTIVATES
IN RESPONSE
TO ITS
WIELDER'S
FIGHTING
SPIRIT.

NOT
VERY
REALISTIC



OH
WOW
!!

AKIRA,
AREN'T I
FREAK-
ING AWESOME
?!



I'M
GLAD YOU
DECIDED TO
SHOW OFF
YOUR
STRENGTH
FOR NO
REASON.



THANKS
TO YOU,
THE DARK-
NESS IS
NICE AND
FILLED.



...
THAN I
HAVE IN
A LONG
TIME.



FIRST,
ALLOW
ME TO
TAKE MY
HAT OFF
TO YOU

HOMU-
RABI.



AND I
FEEL
BETTER...





...I CAN
JUDGE
YOU.

NOW...



...IF IT
CAN
REACH
ME.



VERY
WELL. I
SHALL
ACCEPT
YOUR
JUDG-
MENT.













THIS
FEELING...
I'VE FELT
IT BEFORE.





LET US
BEGIN...

HIRYU.





...MY
MASTER.

#0153 Hiryu

YES...













I DON'T LIKE THIS WORLD VERY MUCH.



I BET YOU'VE BARELY ANY STRENGTH LEFT AT ALL.



DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.



YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY?



I'M "RUNNING AWAY"? SHOULDN'T YOU WAIT UNTIL YOU HAVE THE POWER TO KILL ME TO SAY THAT?



RUNNING?



I HAVE
TO
REPAIR
HER.

HIRYU'S
ABOUT
TO
BREAK,
TOO.

THAT'S
RARE...
FOR YOU
TO SAY
SOME-
THING LIKE
THAT.

Heh

HAH, I
SUPPOSE
IT IS.



THE
JOB OF
KING IS
A VERY
BORING
ONE.

I'M
SURE YOU,
OF ALL
PEOPLE,
WOULD
UNDER-
STAND
THIS.



DANCE
FOR ME.
STRUGGLE
FOR ME.

THEN
DIE.

IT'S
A SILLY
FARCE,
BUT
BETTER
THAN
NOTHING,
YES?



AND
UNTIL
YOU DO,
YOU'LL
CONTINUE
TO
ENTERTAIN
ME...

SHIRO-
GANE.



THE
ELEMENTS
HAVE
RETURNED
TO NORMAL,
SO I WOULD
SAY YES.

IS HE
GONE
...

MAYBE?

PERHAPS
HE WAS
AFTER ME...?
NO, IT
DIDN'T
SEEM
THAT
WAY.

MORE
IMPOR-
TANTLY...
WHAT DID
HE EVEN
COME
HERE
FOR?

WHAT
WAS
THAT?

YEAH,
I KNOW!
I WASN'T
SCARED A
BIT WHILE
IT WAS
HAPPENING,
EITHER!

Scary!

Yes, but...

I KNOW
IT'S LATE
FOR THIS,
BUT ALL OF
A SUDDEN
I STARTED
SHAKING.

WHOA









AKIRA?

EX-
CUSE
ME?



WHAT?
ME?

TO
KENGO.



HUH?



DON'T
"WHAT"
ME!
THERE'S SOME-
THING ELSE
YOU SHOULD
SAY.

WHAT?!
YOU'RE CREEP-
ING ME OUT.



YOU
SHOULD
APOLO-
GIZE.

DON'T
PLAY
DUMBS.

EVEN IF IT
WAS FOR HIS
SAKE, YOU
SAID SOME-
THING YOU
SHOULDN'T
HAVE.





That's
right...

NOW
WHERE'S
YOUR
APOLO-
GY?



Hept

I'm feeling
you. It isn't
happening



**SHUT
UP!**

And that
wasn't
a random
word just

HEY,
WHAT
WAS
THAT
FOR
?!

THAT'S
DANGER-
OUS!

SWING!

**THEN
DIE!**

<

お

!!

WAIT...
DIE?

What...?

**IF YOU
CAN'T
EVEN
ADMIT
YOU'RE
WRONG...**

**STOP
BEING
STUBBORN
AND SAY
YOU'RE
SORRY!**

You
should
talk...

**IF YOUR
PRIDE'S SO
FRAGILE
THAT IT
CAN'T
HANDLE AN
APOLOGY,
THEN IT'S
NOT WORTH
ANYTHING
TO BEGIN
WITH.**





I'M...

R.O.

W-W?
S-SOR-







THE
POISON
GOT ME
A LITTLE.
I'LL BE
OKAY
IN A
MINUTE.



KOF
I'M...
FINE...
GASP





I JUST
TAKE BACK
WHAT WAS
STOLEN
FROM ME.



MY
GOALS
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
AT ALL.

WHAT
WILL
YOU DO
NOW?



THEN
I'M
RIGHT...



IF YOU'RE
THAT BORED
OF BEING
KING, I'LL
DRAG YOU
OFF YOUR
THRONE.

A
"SILLY"
FARCE,
IS IT?
VERY
WELL.



I'LL
DANCE
FOR
YOU,
FOR
NOW...

BUT...



Ha ha...
I HAVEN'T
SEEN
SHIROBANE
ENJOYING
HIMSELF
THIS MUCH
IN A LONG
TIME.



**HOMU-
RABI!**

**IN
THE
END,
YOU'LL
DANCE
FOR
ME...**



#016: A Helper..?

**MORN-
ING!**



I'M KINDA
SAD NOBODY
WORRIED
WHEN THEY
LOOKED AT
MY FACE...

IT'S
AFTER
NOON!

AND
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN
"MORN-
ING"?

THE HECK
HAPPENED
TO YOU? DID
YOU SLIDE
FACE-FIRST
INTO SECOND
BASE OR
SOMETHING?

BUT
HOW AM I
SUPPOSED TO
RESPOND TO
THE FACT THAT
THE GUY WHO
DID THIS TO ME
FORGOT IT?



SHIRO-
GANE!

YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE WHO'S
NICE TO
ME.

I HEALED
HIM. DON'T
WORRY. I'LL
HEAL YOU
LATER,
TOO.

And
what's
with this
"Morn-
ing"?

WAIT A
SECOND-
ARE YOU
SERIOUSLY
SAYING
THAT WITH
A STRAIGHT
FACE?

AND
WHY ISN'T
THERE A
SCRATCH
ON
AKIRA?

BECAUSE
I HAVE A
BEAUTIFUL
FACE.







SO
THERE
SHOULD
STILL BE
ANOTHER
KING LEFT
IN THIS
WORLD,
RIGHT?

COULD
WE HAVE
THE KING
HELP US?

WE CAN FIGHT
A BIT, BUT NONE
OF US HAVE
REALLY BEEN IN
A FIGHT WHERE
WE MEANT
TO KILL
SOMEBODY.

IT'D BE
NICE IF WE
HAD SOME-
BODY LIKE
THAT TO
HELP.



YES,
WHAT OF
IT?

HEY,
SHIRO-
GANE.

YOU
WERE
SAYING
SOMETHING
ABOUT THERE
BEING TWO
KINGS,
WEREN'T YOU?



AND HIS
CHILDREN
ARE BUSY
DEALING WITH
THE GIFTS
OCCURRING
ALL OVER THE
WORLD.

HE'S
HOLDING
BACK THE
DARKNESS
THAT'S
TRYING TO
FLOOD INTO
THIS WORLD
ALL BY
HIMSELF.

WE
CAN'T
PUT ANY
MORE
STRAIN
ON HIM.

NO,
WE COULD
NOT.





HEY! I
KNOW! I
KNOW!

.....

SO
WE HAVE TO
DO IT OUR-
SELVES...



YOU WANT
SOMEBODY
TO CEASE
TO EXIST
SO THEY
CAN HELP
US?

IF THEY
AGREED TO
THAT, THEN
THEY'VE GOT
PROBLEMS
OF THEIR
OWN.

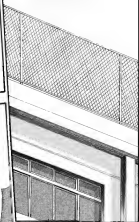
COULD
WE TURN
SOMEBODY
REALLY
STRONG INTO
ONE OF
THOSE...
WHAT WAS IT
CALLED...?
A SHIN? AND
HAVE THEM
FIGHT WITH
US?

Yusuf



AND
MORE
THAN
THAT,
KENGO...

IT'S NOT
AS THOUGH
JUST ANY-
BODY CAN
BE TURNED
INTO A SHIN.





FIRST, FOR THEM TO BE CHANGED INTO A SHIN OR A REI, THEY HAVE TO HAVE THE FACTOR OF THE APPROPRIATE ELEMENT

REALLY...?

I... DIDN'T KNOW THAT.



CORRECT.

BUT YOU CALLED ME A ROYAL REI, RIGHT?

SO MY FACTOR IS LIGHT, ISN'T IT?

FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU TRY TO TRANSFORM SOMEBODY WITH THE OPPOSITE FACTOR, OR NONE AT ALL, THEY'LL TRULY BLACK OUT.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN DO WITH ANY-BODY.



DON'T GAMBLE WHEN MY LIFE IS ON THE LINE, IDIOT!

OF COURSE, IT WAS A BIT OF A GAMBLE

DON'T WORRY!

THE ROYAL FACTOR IS SPECIAL.

THEN SHOULDN'T I NOT BE ABLE TO TRANSFORM INTO A SHIN, WHICH IS THE OPPOSITE ELEMENT?



DO I
HAVE
ONE OF
THOSE
FACTORS
...?

HEY! HEY!
THEN WHAT
ABOUT
US?

NOW NOW,
DON'T COM-
PLAIN. IT ALL
WORKED
OUT.

WHY
YOU...



WELL,
THOSE
WITH
FACTORS
ARE
GARER
THAN
THOSE
WITH
SPECIAL
POWERS.

AND
EVEN IF
WE DON'T
TRANS-
FORM
THEM,
THERE'S
NOBODY
WHO
WOULD
BELIEVE
THIS
ANYWAY.



AW...
LAME!

I DON'T
REALLY
WANT TO
BE TRANS-
FORMED
ANYWAY,
BUT...

LET ME
SEE...

NEITHER
OF YOU
HAVE
FACTORS.



HUH?

NO...

MAYBE
THERE
IS ONE
I CAN
THINK
OF.



HUH?
WHAT? YOU
KNOW THIS
GUY, TOO?
WHAT'S HE
LIKE?

OH!

YOU
CAN'T
MEAN...



AND
MORE THAN
ANYTHING,
HE'S SO
STRONG
THAT WE
DON'T EVEN
NEED TO
TRANSFORM
HIM.

I DUNNO.
WHAT HE'LL
SAY WHEN
I ASK; BUT
HE'S KIND
OF WEIRD.
THERE'S
A GOOD
CHANCE
HE'LL SAY
YES.



SO...

I GUESS
WE CAN GO
SEE HIM AFTER
SCHOOL. IT'S
BEEN A LONG
TIME.



'CAUSE
HE LIVES
AROUND
HERE.

WHY DO
WE HAVE TO
COME HERE
TO THESE
ABANDONED
WARE-
HOUSES?



YEAH,
THAT'S
RIGHT.
HE JUST
JUMPED
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF IT.

WHEN
WE GOT
INTO
A FIGHT
HERE.

WE
MET HIM
EARLIER
...

After heated



YUCK!
YOU'RE
KIDDING ME!
THIS PLACE
HAS GANGS
AND ALL
KINDS OF
NASTY
PEOPLE..

THAT'S
WHY HE
LIVES
HERE.

WHAT?
?



WHAT?
?



PLAIN, AT
FIRST GLANCE,
BUT THEY HAVE
AN AIR OF
WHOLESOMENESS
ABOUT THEM.
THAT'S PERHAPS
TARGETED AT
A VERY SMALL
SUBSET OF
INDIVIDUALS...

HMM...
100% WHITE
COTTON
PANTIES.

NOW
I'M EVEN
MORE CON-
FUSED.

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING, YOU
PERVERT?!

!!!

HEY!
KEN
AND
AKI!

WHAT
?!

HEY!
BROTHER
KOH!
HOW'VE
YOU
BEEN?

I'LL
TURN
YOU
OVER
TO THE
POLICE!

OH,
THAT
KICK!
YOU
MUST
BE THE
LEGEND-
ARY...



NO
WAY...
THIS
PERV
IS...

YOU
NEVER
COME
OVER TO
PLAY ANY-
MORE!

かーはーふ



IT'S
BEEN SO
LONG!
♡
YOUR BIG
BROTHER'S
MISSED
YOU!



WHAT?!
WHAT'S
THIS
NOW?

ARE
YOU
GONNA
HOOK
ME UP
WITH
HER?

Don't
fight!

THAT'S
RIGHT.
HE'S THE
SUPER-
STRONG
GUY, I WAS
TELLING
YOU
ABOUT.
"KOH."

Don't
fight!

Don't
fight!

Don't
fight!

Don't
fight!

Don't
fight!

Don't
fight!

Don't
fight!

Don't
fight!

Don't
fight!

Don't
fight!

Don't
fight!

Don't
fight!

Don't
fight!

AHEM.
I'M KOH.

NICE
TO MEET
YOU.
♡



THE HELL I WILL!

YOUR LOVE HURTS ME!



THIS MAN...



MY FAVORITE THING IS CUTE GIRLS!

MY HOBBY IS XXXXXX (SELF-CENSORED).
♡

YOU CAN CALL ME BROTHER KOH OR BRO KOH!
♡



YOU'RE PROPOSING ALREADY?!

WE'LL BEAT THAT PERVESSION RIGHT OUT OF YOU!

YOU'RE THE TYPE I HATE MORE THAN ANYTHING!

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME TO MY DOJO!



WHE

HEY, AKIRA!

NO, YOU MORON!

MY HEART ISN'T READY YET...
♡

NO...
♡





STOP
IGNOR-
ING
US!

Hey!
You!

BUT
THEY
PAY
SO
WELL!

BROTHER
KOH, YOU
SHOULD
STOP
DOING
DANGER-
OUS
JOBS
LIKE
THAT.



YOU
LITTLE...
I'LL
KILL
YOU!



YES
YES. I'LL
DEAL
WITH
YOU IN A
SECOND,
SO STAY
CALM.

KIDS,
GET BACK.
THIS IS
DANGER-
OUS.











WELL,
THAT
SHOULD
DO IT.



WH-
WHAT'S
THAT
SOUND?

HAM
...



OH.



WE'VE
NEVER
SEEN
ANYBODY
STRON-
GER THAN
HIM!



WH-
WH-WH-
WHY
ARE
THERE
SO
MANY?

THE
REST
OF THEM
CAUGHT
UP.

WHOOOPS.

SERIOUSLY,
WHAT DID
YOU DO?



YOU
GUYS
SHOULD
RUN,
TOO.



SO YOUR
BROTHER
WILL
BE OFF
NOW!



Wait!

THEY
LOOK LIKE
THEY'LL
GO AFTER
ANYBODY
THEY CAN
GET THEIR
HANDS
ON.

Get him!

HEY,
WAIT!
BROTHER
KOH!



WE CAN
TALK
THEN,
OKAY?

ZZ
ZZ

YOU'RE
COMING
BACK,
RIGHT?

BUT
...







COME
TO THINK
OF IT, AKIRA.
WHERE DID
YOU MEET
SUCH A
STRANGE
PERSON?



TODAY
WAS
REALLY
TIRING...



HMM

YOU DID
A LOT OF
RUNNING.



A
BUNCH
OF THUS
WANTED
MONEY.

IT WAS
BROTHER
KOH WHO
SAVED
US.

I TOLD
YOU,
RIGHT?
SOMEBODY
PICKED
A FIGHT
WITH US
THERE

KENGO
AND
I WERE
WANDERING
AROUND.



THAT'S
AN
AMAZING
STORY.



SO WE
STARTED
HANGING
OUT
MORE.

SOME-
HOW WE
JUST HIT
IT OFF.



BUT I
KNOW
HE'S A
GOOD
GUY.



WELL, I
REALLY
DON'T
KNOW
MUCH
ABOUT
HIM, AND
HE DOES
ALL THIS
WEIRD
WORK.



What?
Already?

THAT
WAS
FAST!

I'VE
THOUGHT
THIS
BEFORE,
BUT HE
REALLY
GOES TO
SLEEP
QUICKLY!

ZZZ



I'M
TIRED
AND
GOING
TO SLEEP.

ANYWAY,
WE CAN
DISCUSS
IT MORE
TOMOR-
ROW.



RIGHT
RIGHT.
GOODNI-









HOW IS
IT THAT
YOU ARE
ALIVE?



?!



YOU
DIDN'T THINK
YOU'D SEE
ME AGAIN?
I THOUGHT
THE SAME
OF YOU...

KOH.

MONOCHRO FACTOR



#017: Rei





THERE
WE
GO!

THAT'S
THE
SHIROGANE
I KNOW.



SO
WHAT'S
WITH THE
FORMALITY?
IT FELT LIKE
YOU WERE
DUNNING
SOME KIND
OF CROOKED
CON.



HUH?

YOUR
QUESTION?
OH RIGHT.
WHY I'M
ALIVE?

FIRST
ANSWER
MY
QUES-
TION.



SHUT
UP.



DAMN
IT ALL...

YOU'RE
SUCH A
WEIRD ASS.
ALWAYS
WORRYING
ABOUT THE
STUPIDEST
THINGS.



TURNUED
TAIL LIKE A
WHIPPED
DOG...

THEN
I RAN
AND RAN
AND RAN
SOME
MORE.



THAT'S
EASY.
I RAN.



YOU
ABANDONED
BYUKOP



I
SUPPOSE
THAT'S
WHAT
HAPPENED.

YEAH...





YUP,
DEFINITELY!



ANYWAY,
IT'S A
MIRACLE
YOU'RE
ALIVE.

AND
YOU'RE
WITH AKI
OF ALL
PEOPLE.



YEAH...
SOME
STUFF
HAPPEN-
ED.

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
TURNED
AKI INTO
A SHIN!

OH,
NOW I
GET IT!



AND HE
STOPPED
COMING BY
ALL OF A
SUDDEN.

I WAS
SCARED
HOMURABI
HAD
GOTTEN
HIS HANDS
ON HIM.

あき
アキラ

KOH,
YOU
BASTARD
...

SURE I
COULD.
I KNOW
AKI.

COULD
YOU TELL
JUST BY
LOOKING
AT HIM?

HUH?
BUT I'M
OUT OF
TOUCH
WITH THAT
WORLD
NOW.

I
FIGURED
I'D JUST
KEEP AN
EYE ON
HIM.

IF YOU
GOT TO HIM
BEFORE ME,
WHY DIDN'T
YOU GO
AHEAD AND
TRANSFORM
HIM?

YOU
MADE
CONTACT
WITH AKIRA
BECAUSE
YOU KNEW
HE HAD
THE ROYAL
FACTOR,
RIGHT?



SURE,
I KNOW
IT'S
BAD.

#mph!

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
I'M DOING
IN A PLACE
LIKE THIS?



THIS
PLACE
CAN'T
BE...



YOU
LOUSY
...

DO
YOU
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

IF
YOU DO,
CAN YOU
REALLY BE
STUPID
ENOUGH TO
TELL ME
SOMETHING
LIKE
THAT?

WELL...

SINCE
YOU'RE
HERE,
WE CAN
FINALLY
SEAL-

!

MPE
?!

SHIRO-
GANE!

OH
MY...



I KNOW YOU'VE GOT STUFF TO DO.

AND EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T TELL ME, I'M NOT GONNA COMPLAIN ABOUT YOU LEAVING ME.



WHAT-EVER DO YOU MEAN?



WAS THERE A PROBLEM?

THAT THING

BUT THINK BEFORE YOU LEAVE THAT THING WITH ME.



...WH-WHA..?!

WHY DOES A GUY MY AGE HAVE TO SLEEP WITH A FREAKING DOLL?!



SURE THERE WAS! ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS, IDIOT!



WHAT'S WRONG, AKIRA?

YOU KNOW DAMN WELL WHAT'S WRONG.

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?



BITE ME.

I DIDN'T THINK HE'D WAKE UP TODAY OF ALL DAYS.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH SHIRO-GANE?!

BROTHER KOH?!

That really hurt.

YOU SCREWED IT UP AND HE FOUND OUT.



SLEEPING NEXT TO THAT THING WOULD GIVE ANYBODY NIGHT-MARES!

WAIT—FORGET THAT!

AKIRA, IT'S VERY RARE FOR YOU TO WAKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

GAH!

WHY?

AH! SO THE SHADY CONMAN THING IS FOR AKI—



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

YOU'RE NOT STILL HIDING SOMETHING ARE YOU?

DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT.



WHAT?

THE TWO
OF YOU
KNOW
EACH
OTHER?

ACTUALLY,
WE BOTH
THOUGHT
THE OTHER
WAS
DEAD.



YUP!

AND TO
SIMPLIFY
THE
REASON
WHY...

YUP

NO,
IT'S NOT
LIKE THAT,
AKIRA!
NEITHER OF
US HAD ANY
IDEA YOU
KNEW THE
OTHER!



YUP,
THAT
REI.

REI?
THE ONE
THAT'S A
COUNTER-
PART TO A
SHIN?



AND I'M
DOING
SOME
CLEANUP
HERE.



I
AM A
"REI."





I
GUESS
IT'S
TIME!

KOKU-
CHI!



WAIT!

BROTHER
KOH,
WHAT'S
GOING
ON-



SHH!

UNDER-
STOOD.



SHIRO-
GANE...
I'LL JUST
FINISH THIS
UP QUICK.
SO SEAL IT
WHEN I'M
DONE,
OKAY?



DIDN'T
I JUST
TELL
YOU?

WE'LL
HAVE A
NICE, LONG
TALK ABOUT
THIS LATER.
OKAY?



NOW
THEN...

WHAT
SHALL
WE PLAY
TODAY?











NORMALLY,
EVEN A SMALL
HOLE WILL
BRING IN THE
TAINT OF
DARKNESS.



BUT IT
SEEMS
THERE'S A
SIZEABLE
HOLE
HERE.



BUT
WHEN I
CAME
HERE
TODAY,
I DIDN'T
NOTICE
IT AT
ALL.





THERE'S
A REASON
THERE'S
SO LITTLE
DARKNESS
HERE...





IT'S
BECAUSE
HE'S BEEN
FIGHTING LIKE
THIS EVERY
DAY.



ONE
OF THE
PEOPLE
WHO ARE
STOPPING
THE SPREAD
OF THE RIFTS
YOU WERE
TALKING
ABOUT?



SO
BROTHER
KOH IS
ONE OF
THEM...



NOPE.

I'M NOT
DOING IT
BECAUSE THE
KING ASKED
ME TO.



BUT
THIS IS
JUST AN
ATTEMPT
AT ATONE-
MENT.



YEAH,
I SUP-
POSE.

BUT
YOU'RE
OUT HERE
RIGHT
NOW
DOING
IT...



AT
LAST,
I CAN
RETURN
TO MY
REAL
DUTY.

BUT
THAT'S
OVER
NOW.



ATONE-
MENT?



HUNG
WAIT...
BROTHER
KOH?



LONG
HAVE I
WAITED
FOR THIS
DAY.





I SWEAR
IT SHALL
STAY BY
YOUR SIDE
UNTIL I
FADE AWAY
TO DUST.

MY
BODY, MY
SOUL...
EVERYTHING
I HAVE...





THANKS,
SHIRO-
SANE.

IT'S
OVER.

NOW
THIS
PLACE IS
SAFE.



"MY
KING."



I
WASN'T
PLANNING
ON
STAYING.

NO
SENSE
IN TALKING
OUT HERE.
COME
TO MY
PLACE.

You haven't
come to my
place yet.



AW,
COME
ON!



#018: Koh





THAT'S
NOT
SOMETHING
TO BE
PROUD
OF.

ACTUAL-
LY, IT'S
PRETTY
SCUMMY.

By this
way, the
guy is
preparing
so I paid
for that.

WHEN
YOU'RE
AS GOOD
AS I AM,
IT'S
NOTHING!

HE'S
STEALING
THE LIGHTS
AND THE
WATER AND
EVERYTHING
ELSE.

BROTHER
KOH
IS AN
ILLEGAL
IMMI-
GRANT.





IT
REALLY
DOESN'T
MAKE
SENSE
TO ME.



THAT'S
RATHER...
DEPRESS-
ING.



AT
CHRISTMAS
AND NEW
YEAR'S, THE
THREE OF
US GET
TOGETHER
AND HAVE
A MEAL
HERE.



I
UNDER-
STAND
THAT
BROTHER
KOH IS
A REL.



WELL...

I'M
SURE IT'S
A BIT CON-
FUSING.



BUT
THAT
HE'S MY
"CHILD"?



HEY,
SHIRO
GANE!



YOU
REALLY
WEREN'T
HIDING
THAT YOU
KNEW HIM,
RIGHT?





A LOT OF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING SEEMS RATHER RUDE...

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

Comes to think of it...

...BUT YOU WOULD'VE TRUSTED ME!

WHEN YOU TRANSFORMED, YOU RAN FROM SHROSANE 'CAUSE HE'S SHADY AS HELL...

Right?



SHI-SUI?

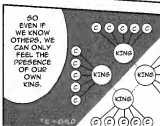
HMMP? OH, THAT'S THE NAME OF THE OTHER KINS.



BUT BROTHER KIN, YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY CONTACT WITH ANYBODY, RIGHT?

I CAN UNDERSTAND SHROSANE AND HOWURASE, BUT SINCE YOU'RE A DEI, YOU SHOULD BE CONNECTED WITH THE OTHER DEI KINS.

OH, SHISUI.



SO EVEN IF WE KNOW OTHERS, WE CAN ONLY FEEL THE PRESENCE OF OUR OWN KING.

NORMALLY, KINGS ARE A PAIR, BUT THEY AREN'T LINKED, AND THEIR CHILDREN ARE ONLY CONNECTED THROUGH THEIR OWN KINS.

I'M NOT SHISUI'S CHILD.



AND
INSTEAD,
I WAS
THE FIRST
ONE TO
FIND YOU
RIGHT?



YEAH...

AKIRA,
RURU
WAS LIKE
THAT,
RIGHT?



SO
THAT
WAS
IT.



COME TO
THINK OF IT,
SHE FIGURED
OUT THAT YOU
AND I WERE CONTRACT-
ED.

SO
THAT'S
WHY SHE
TALKED
TO ME.



NOPE!



BUT I
HAVEN'T
CONTRACTED
WITH YOU.



'CAUSE I
MADE MY
CONTRACT
WITH
RYUKO.





IN
OTHER
WORDS...
YOU ARE THE
ONE WHO
INHERITED
RYUKO'S
FACTOR.

...



DOES
THAT MEAN
THIS RYUKO
IS...?



BUT...

IF I
INHERITED
IT, THEN
...



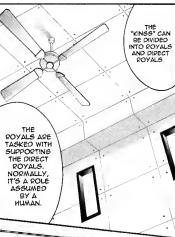
A
GOOD
WHILE
BEFORE
YOU
WERE
BORN...

AND
SLIGHTLY
BEFORE KOH
AND I WERE
ERASED...

HE
WAS
KILLED.



CORRECT.



THE
"KINGS" CAN
BE DIVIDED
INTO ROYALS
AND DIRECT
ROYALS

THE
ROYALS ARE
TASKED WITH
SUPPORTING
THE DIRECT
ROYALS.
NORMALLY,
IT'S A ROLE
ASSUMED
BY A
HUMAN.



YES,
CORRECT.

SO
HOMU-
RABI
WAS A
HUMAN?

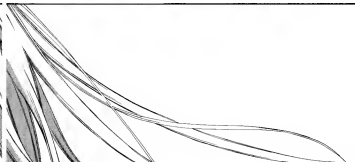


THAT'S
WHY IT'S
INEVITA-
BLE THE
FACTORS
ARE
REBORN.

UNLIKE
THE SHIN
AND REI
THAT TRANS-
FORMED
HUMANS
BECOME,
DIRECT
ROYALS
ARE PURE
LIGHT AND
DARK-
NESS.
IN
OTHER
WORDS,
THE
PILLARS
THAT
SUSTAIN
THE
WORLD.



HOMURABI
DID IT...





**EVERYTHING
THAT MADE
YOU...**

RYUKO.



BROTHER
KOH...

WELL,
"AWAKEN-
ING"
DOESN'T
ACTUALLY
CHANGE
ANYTHING.



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT SO
MUCH.

UWAH!



AND
LET'S GET
YOU BACK
TO A
NORMAL
LIFE.

FORGET
ABOUT THAT
AWAKENING
AND ALIEN-
MENT COOP.
SO KICK
HOMU-
RABI'S
ASS!

SHUT UP!



WH-
WHAT?
?



LEAVE
IT TO
YOUR BIG
BROTHER!

DON'T
WORRY!



I'LL
PROTECT
ALL OF
YOU
GUYS.

YOU,
KEN, AND
AYA...



SURE
WILL/
LEAVE
IT TO
ME.

I
GUESS
HAVING
YOU
JOIN US
WOULD
BE A BIG
HELP.



...HM.



WELL,
IT'S PAST
FOUR
IN THE MORNING.

THIS
STUFF
HAS BEEN
GOING ON
SO LONG
LATELY
THAT I
HAVEN'T
GOTTEN
ANY SLEEP.



...AW,
CRAP.

IT'S
STARTING
TO GET
LIGHT
OUT.



UH...

THANKS
FOR
TELLING
ME ALL
THIS
TODAY,
BROTHER
KOH.



FREAKING
SHIRO-
GANE CON-
STANTLY
HIDES THE
DETAILS.

I FIG-
URED HE WOULD!



GUESS
THAT I
SHOULD.

THEN
SKIP
SCHOOL!

...HE'S
NOT A
GOOD
INFLUENCE.









KOH
WILL BE
A BIG
HELP.



THAT
WENT
WELL.





NO?

IT'S
NOTHING.



"AKI..."



"ABOUT
SHIROGANE
..."



"DON'T
TRUST
HIM."

#019: Holes



SHIRO-
GANE
WILL
EXPLAIN
IT ALL.

*Hello
everyone.*

SO I'VE
BROUGHT
YOU ALL
HERE...

BECAUSE
KOH
SUGGESTED
GOING OVER
EVERYTHING
THAT'S
GOING
ON.



I
HATE TO
CHANGE
THE
SUBJECT,
BUT...

UM...

SINCE
WE'RE ALL
FIGHTING
TOGETHER
NOW, WE
SHOULD ALL
GO OVER
THIS.



THAT'S
NOT
FAIR!

YOU
SHOULD
RESPECT
MY
PRIVACY
AND
RIGHT TO
DECIDE
MORE!

whoa-ii

YOU
CAN MAKE
YOURSELF
AT HOME.

AND THIS
IS THE BEST
PLACE FOR
A MEETING.

BUT THIS IS
OUR MEETING
SPOT, SINCE
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO GO
ANYWHERE,
THERE
WAS NO
NEED TO
TELL YOU.



I
HATE
YOU
ALL!

IDIOT.

IRRELE-
VANT.

SER-
VANT.

VIRGIN.

あま

か>!

...AND
GET
START-
ED?

SHUT
UP.

WHAT?
IS-
NORE
ME?

ANYWAY,
WHY DON'T
WE IGNORE
KENSO...

JUST LIKE
A MIRROR,
PEOPLE,
OBJECTS,
EVERYTHING HAS
A LIGHT AND
SHADOW ASPECT,
WHICH EXIST AS
A PAIR AND KEEP
THEM ANCHORED
IN THE WORLD.

FIRST,
EVERYONE
HERE KNOWS
THAT EVERY-
THING IN THIS
WORLD IS DIVIDED
INTO PAIRS,
SEPARATED BY
A BOUNDARY
LINE, RIGHT?

YES.

LET'S
START
WITH THE
BASICS.



SHADOW
CREA-
TURES,
LIKE
AKIRA
AND I,
ARE
CALLED
SHIN.



CREA-
TURES OF
LIGHT, LIKE
KOH, ARE
CALLED
REI.

AND THERE
EXIST SPECIAL
CREATURES
THAT BELONG
TO ONLY
SHADOW OR
LIGHT, WHICH
HELP TO
MAINTAIN THE
BALANCE.

THE
SAME IS
TRUE FOR
KOKUCHI
AND
HAKUA.

INSTEAD,
THE SHIN AND
REI THEM-
SELVES, ARE
COUNTERPARTS
OF EACH OTHER.

SHIN AND REI
ARE DIFFERENT
FROM THE
REST OF
REALITY IN
THAT THEY
HAVE NO
COUNTERPARTS
OF THEIR
OWN.



ORIGINALLY,
THE KOKUCHI
AND HAKUA
WERE EACH
OBSERVERS
OF THEIR
OWN
WORLD.



BUT
KOKUCHI
ATTACK
PEOPLE,
RIGHT?



THAT'S
BECAUSE
THE
KOKUCHI
ARE CREA-
TURES OF
SHADOW.

THE TRUE
ROLE OF THE
KORUCHI AND
HAKUA IS TO
FIND THESE
HOLES AND
FILL THEM.

*Koruchi
and Hakua
can walk into
a hole and
fill it.*

THEY
AREN'T BIG
ENOUGH FOR
US TO GO
THROUGH
THEM, OUR-
SELVES.

EVEN
WHEN THE
BALANCE IS
MAINTAINED,
THERE STILL
EXIST MINOR
HOLES.

I
SEE

WHEN A
KORUCHI
ENTERS THIS
WORLD,
EVERYTHING
IS PART OF
THE OPPO-
SITE ELE-
MENT.

IT
CAN'T BE
HELPED
THAT IT
GOES OUT
OF CON-
TROL...

THE
MOST
IMPORTANT
AMONG THEM
ARE CALLED
THE DIRECT
ROYALS.

AND
EACH
WORLD
HAS TWO
KINGS,
WHO RULE
OVER
THEM
ALL.



COR-
RECT.

AND I'M
RYUKO
REBORN.

THE DIRECT
ROYAL OF
SHADOW IS
SHIOSANE.
THE DIRECT
ROYAL OF
LIGHT IS
RYUKO.

YOU CAN
THINK OF THEM
AS PURE LIGHT
AND SHADOW
MANIFESTED, AS
OPPOSED TO
SHIN AND
PEI THAT ARE
CREATED BY A
TRANSFORMED
FACTOR.

THE DIRECT
ROYALS
ARE ALSO
KNOWN AS
"TUNERS."



HIS
AMBITION
IS TO RULE
EVERYTHING,
AND THAT
MEANS
ABSORBING
THIS
WORLD.



COME TO
THINK OF IT,
YOU SAID
THAT HOMU-
DABI SUY
BANISHED
YOU,
RIGHT?

BUT IF THE
GOAL OF THE
ROYALS IS
ORIGINALLY TO
MAINTAIN THE
BALANCE, THEN
ISN'T IT WEIRD
THAT HE WOULD
DO THAT?



THAT
IS HIS
GOAL.

SO HE'S
LIKE AN EVIL
ORGANIZATION
PLOTING
WORLD
DOMINATION!

NO, BUT
IF THAT
MAKES IT
EASIER FOR
YOU TO
UNDERSTAND,
THEN THAT'S
FINE.

WHAT'S
IMPORTANT
NOW IS
THAT THE
BALANCE IS
NO LONGER
PROPERLY
MAINTAINED.

IT
COULD
BREAK
AT ANY
TIME.

SINCE
WE CAN'T
AWAKEN
AKIRA,
THERE'S
ONLY ONE
KING OF
LIGHT.

AND
ONE OF THE
SHADOW
KINGS
HAS BEEN
BANISHED
AND SENT
HERE. PLUS,
THE BALANCE
OF THE CHIL-
DREN IS A
MESS.

THE BEST
WAY WOULD
BE TO DEFEAT
HOMURABI
AND CROWN A
NEW KING.

ONCE
THAT'S
DONE,
THE REST
CAN WORK
ITSELF
OUT.

SO
WHAT
DO WE
DO TO
BRING
BALANCE
BACK?

SO I
HAVE A
SUGGES-
TION IN-
STEAD.

WELL...
THAT'S
NOT
POSSI-
BLE
RIGHT
NOW.

WE'VE
GOTTA
BEAT
HIM,
HUN?



THE
POWER
OF THE
KING
DIRECTLY
COO-
RELATES
TO THE
POWER
OF HIS
WORLD.

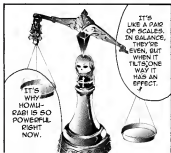
WHAT'S
THAT GOT
TO DO WITH
HOMU-
RABI?

REPAIR
IT?



IT'S
LIKE A PAIR
OF SCALES.
IN BALANCE,
THEY'RE
EVEN, BUT
WHEN IT
TILTS, ONE
WAY IT
HAS AN
EFFECT.

IT'S
WHY
HOMU-
RABI IS SO
POWERFUL
RIGHT
NOW.



I'D
LIKE TO
REPAIR THE
BOUNDARY
LINE, WHICH
WOULD DE-
GRADE HIS
POWER.



ALSO,
THIS WORLD IS
THE OPPOSITE
OF MY OWN
ELEMENT. I'M
WEAKENED IN
A NUMBER
OF WAYS,
HONESTLY.

I'VE BEEN
BANISHED.
THUS, I AM
CUT OFF
FROM THE
WORLD OF
SHADOW.

IN THAT
CASE, IS
SHIROGANE
STRONG,
TOO?

AH
HA HA...
I CERTAINLY
WISH THAT
WAS THE
CASE.

OH, I
DIDN'T
KNOW
...

BUT IF WE
WANT TO
REPAIR THE
BOUNDARY
LINE, CAN
WE DO IT
WITHOUT
ANY INFOR-
MATION?

I-IT
IS?

TRUE, WE
CAN'T KNOW
FOR CERTAIN
UNTIL WE GET
CLOSE TO A
HOLE, BUT IN-
FORMATION IS
EASIER TO FIND
THAN YOU MIGHT
THINK.

AND
THE BEST
PLACES
TO CHECK
FIRST...

Why does
he look so
happy?

I have
a bad feeling
about this.

Oh boy!



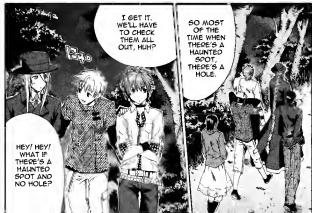
...ARE
HAUNTED
SPOTS!



MASTER
TOLD US
THIS BEFORE.
MOST
"GHOSTS"
PEOPLE SEE
ARE KOKUCHI.

HAUNTED
SPOTS,
HUH?

HOW
ARE THEY
RELATED?

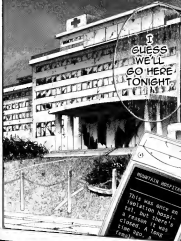


HEY! HEY!
WHAT IF
THERE'S A
HAUNTED
SPOT AND
NO HOLE?

I GET IT.
WE'LL HAVE
TO CHECK
THEM ALL
OUT, HUH?

SO MOST
OF THE
TIME WHEN
THERE'S A
HAUNTED
SPOT,
THERE'S A
HOLE.





BUT
THERE'S
A REASON
IT WAS
CLOSED.

THIS WAS
ONCE AN
ISOLATION
HOSPITAL





YOU
CAN STILL
HEAR HER
SCREAMS
THERE.

HER
ANGRY
SPIRIT
REMAINED
IN THE
HOSPITAL.



AND
AFTER
THAT,
SHE SLIT
HER OWN
THROAT.



AND
AFTER
THAT,
SHE SLIT
HER OWN
THROAT.

YES, IT APPEARS THE MAGNETIC FIELDS IN THIS AREA MAKE THE BOUNDARY LINE MORE UNSTABLE.

HUH...

YES, IT APPEARS THE MAGNETIC FIELDS IN THIS AREA MAKE THE BOUNDARY LINE MORE UNSTABLE.

HUH...

IS THERE A REASON FOR IT?

GHOST SPOTTING LIST

MURDER OF JOHN F. KENNEDY 11/22/63

MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. 4/4/68

THERE ARE A LOT OF HAUNTED SPOTS AROUND HERE.

IS THERE A REASON FOR IT?

GHOST SPOTTING LIST

MURDER OF JOHN F. KENNEDY 11/22/63

MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. 4/4/68

THERE ARE A LOT OF HAUNTED SPOTS AROUND HERE.





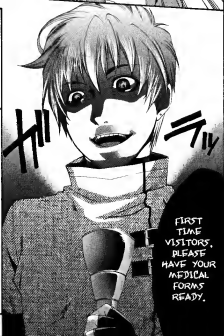
SHUT UP!
LET'S GO
SEE AND
GO HOME!

WELL...
YOU DON'T
NEED TO
FORCE
YOURSELF...

I'M
NOT
AFRAID
OF
GHOSTS!



GYAAAAAAAAAH!



FIRST
TIME
VISITORS,
PLEASE
HAVE YOUR
MEDICAL
FORMS
READY.



GYAAAAAH!



I'LL
TAKE
IT.



LOOKS
LIKE YOU
TWO ARE
READY TO
BE GHOSTS.
YOUR-
SELVES.
HUH?

S-
SORRY

...

A character named Akira is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark trench coat with a braided cord down the front and a fedora-style hat. He is holding a light-colored umbrella.

AKIRA.

A close-up of a young man with spiky hair, wearing a white shirt and a patterned tie. He has a worried or questioning expression on his face.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

A wide shot of a dark, tunnel-like interior. At the end of the tunnel, two figures are standing in a doorway. The floor is dark and reflective.

SO WE FOUND ONE.

A large, dark, irregular shadow is cast on the floor in the foreground, partially obscuring the view of the tunnel.

YES.

The young man and Akira are walking together. Akira is on the right, wearing his trench coat and hat. The young man is on the left, wearing a white shirt and tie.

WHAT?

A close-up of the young man's face, looking slightly to the side with a concerned expression.

LOOK.

A very close-up shot of the young man's eyes, which are wide and looking intently at something off-camera.

!

Two young men are shown in profile, facing each other. The one on the left is speaking, and the one on the right is listening.

KENGO, YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOYING YOURSELF.

A close-up of the young man's face, looking slightly away with a somewhat annoyed or exasperated expression.

AW... SO IT WASN'T A REAL ONE.

A large, dark, irregular shadow is cast on the floor, similar to the one in the previous panel.

THE HOLE, ITSELF, IS SMALL.

A close-up of the dark shadow on the floor, showing its irregular shape.

THERE ARE PROBABLY NO KOKUCHI BECAUSE IT'S NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR THEM TO PASS THROUGH.



SURE,
YOU
COULD
GET
THERE.

BUT
YOUR OWN
ELEMENT IS
LIGHT. EVEN
IF YOU PRE-
PARED YOUR-
SELF PROPERLY
WITH BARRIERS,
YOU WOULD
STILL BE BADLY
WEAKENED
ON THE OTHER
SIDE.

IF YOU
JUST
JUMPED
IN, YOU
COULDN'T
EVEN
BREATHE.



IF I
JUMPED
IN THIS,
WOULD
I END UP
IN THE
OTHER
WORLD?



OF
COURSE
NOT.

THERE'S A
PROCESS
YOU HAVE
TO
FOLLOW.



I'VE
GROWN
ACCU-
STOMED
TO IT.

NOW
I'M GOING
TO CLOSE
IT, SO
PLEASE
STEP..

HUH...

SO
DOES IT
HURT YOU
TO BE
HERE?



アハハ

...BACK...





NO...
I DON'T UNDER-
STAND...

WHAT HAP-
PENED?

KENSO
JUST
FELL
INTO THE
HOLE...

THAT
IDIOT!

WHICH
WAY IS THE
SURFACE?
IT'S SO
DARK, I
CAN'T TELL
WHICH WAY
IS UP.

HUH...?
WATER?

I WAS
IN THAT
HOSPITAL.

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!

OOF!

UH-
OH!





BUT I'M
HONESTLY
SURPRISED
YOU'RE NOT
MORE
ON YOUR
GUARD.



I
STARTED
BY DRAG-
GING IN THE
WEAKEST
ONE...



WHO
ARE
YOU
?!



ARE
YOU
REALLY
OF ANY
USE TO
THEM?

SO
CARE-
LESS.



GOOD
EVENING,
MISTER.

AND
WHILE
I'M AT
IT...

GOOD-
BYE.



TALK, YO

It's been a while. This is Kaili. From here on out, we're moving to monthly chapter releases, and well... The other one's kind of a victim of that. I'd really like to up my drawing speed. Putting the depressing stuff aside, this is volume 4! Volume 4! And our third year running! I've been drawing "Monochrome" for three years... Wait, didn't I say in the last one how I was doing it for two years? Serious deja vu... I'll go check!

(Checking)

Oh crap! It's been a whole year since the last one came out! What's going on here? (Like I don't know...) Oh jeez... It's been that long? No wonder my copy of volume 1 is all yellowed now. But now they're gonna start coming out faster! Monthly releases! Oh, those of you looking forward to "Why? Ruh!!", sorry... I've got things to talk about, but... Sorry. Anyway, keep on reading "Monochrome". I hope we can meet in the next volume.

Kaili
Illustration
2007.04

Squid Ink

Editor - Iida

Assistants - Koike, Yukiko,
Razouki, Minami, Kikukoro

Geez, I'm sorry
it's always so close
to the wire.